



PRESS RELEASE

Vietnam Veterans of America

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VVA Applauds Nomination of Robert Wilkie as Secretary of Veterans Affairs

(Washington, D.C)—“VVA applauds the White House nomination of Acting Secretary Robert Wilkie to serve as the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. We are confident that Wilkie, a veteran of both the U.S. Navy and U.S. Air Force, has the credentials and experience to lead the second largest government agency in this nation,” said John Rowan, VVA National President.

“The son of an Army artillery commander, Wilke has a wealth of experience, which he has evidenced in his current role as acting secretary. From his early years at Ft. Bragg through his more recent positions at the Pentagon and on Capitol Hill, Wilkie has proven his commitment to the security of our nation and to those whom we send in harm’s way.

“Wilkie’s experience spans administrations. Most recently, he has served as Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness. Under former President George W. Bush, he served as Assistant Secretary of Defense to both Robert Gates and Donald Rumsfeld; and he was Special Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs and a senior director of the National Security Council under Dr. Condoleezza Rice.

“On Capitol Hill, Wilkie served as senior advisor to Sen. Thom Tillis and as counsel and advisor on International Security Affairs to the Honorable Trent Lott, the Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate. During a five-year interlude in the private sector, he served as Vice President for Strategic Programs for CH2M HIL, an engineering and program management firm.

“We look forward to an early confirmation of Robert Wilkie and to getting right down to work on the pressing business at the VA,” said Rowan.

